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7731 '99 MAY 10 P3:33

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket 98P-0203/CP
Forced Molting of Layer Hens

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

Recently I became aware of the practice known in the agricultural/animal husbandry industry as "forced molting." According to the information I received and the further research I conducted on my own, this *procedure* or practice is performed by as much as 75% of the poultry (egg producing) farmers.

This agricultural industry already places layer hens on an abnormal and unnatural production schedule and in uncomfortably small and often unsanitary environments but this practice of forced molting is nothing short of torture and unimaginably cruel. In addition, the information I have read on the subject suggests that such a practice increasing the risks of egg contamination and illness for the consumer.

Please be advised that I send this letter to indicate my shock and disgust that such a procedure is not flat out illegal and is deemed permission and appropriate by the government agencies responsible for watching over the welfare of these animals. If it were not, certainly 75% of farmers would not be using this method. Further, **let this stand as another citizen's support/vote in favor of a ban on the forced molting of layer hens.**

Thank you for your time and diligence in recording and reporting the responses of citizens like me who are appalled to learn that such practices are tolerated. I guess if more people looked into the sources of what they put in their mouths and then took the time to write letters sharing their feelings and opinions on these sources, this practice would ALREADY be illegal.

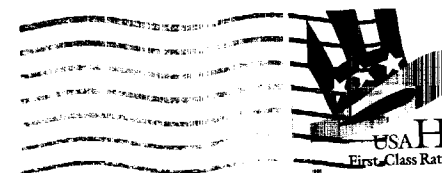
Regards,

Leigh Anne Dennison
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98P-0203

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